

MEDIA RELEASE

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Children and Youth Committee releases review of *Representative for Children and Youth Act*

VICTORIA – The Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth released a report today on its review of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

The report makes 28 recommendations intended to clarify and address gaps in the representative’s mandate and to modernize and strengthen the language and provisions in the Act. The report also highlights how the Act needs to be updated to better align with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

“We heard that some children and youth are unable to get the support they need because of gaps and limitations in the representative’s mandate,” said Committee Chair Jinny Sims. “The Committee recommends targeted changes so that the representative can better advocate for vulnerable children, youth, and young adults, and their families.”

Mike Bernier, Deputy Chair, added, “The representative plays a critical role in providing oversight of programs and services in the child- and youth-serving system. The Committee identified several areas where the Act could be strengthened to support this important work.”

“Committee Members also acknowledge the importance of including Indigenous perspectives in the Act. Our recommendations call for additional consultation to determine how the Act and the representative can best support Indigenous rights,” said Sims.

The Act requires the Committee to undertake a review at least once every five years. In the course of its work, the Committee received briefings from the Representative and government officials, accepted written input from organizations and individuals, invited organizations to make presentations at a public hearing, and received responses to an online survey.

Further information about the Committee, including its report, is available at: www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/cay

The members of the Committee are:

- Jinny Sims, MLA, Surrey-Panorama (Chair);
- Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South (Deputy Chair);
- Michele Babchuk, MLA, North Island;
- Bob D’Eith, K.C., MLA, Maple Ridge-Mission;
- Kelly Greene, MLA, Richmond-Steveston;
- Karin Kirkpatrick, MLA, West Vancouver-Capilano;
- Norm Letnick, MLA, Kelowna-Lake Country;
- Doug Routley, MLA, Nanaimo-North Cowichan; and
- Aman Singh, MLA, Richmond-Queensborough.

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